

Remarks

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 12-16; page 11, lines 13-17; and page 12, lines 17-20. The amendments to claim 2 better conform the language of the claim to standard U.S. patent prosecution practice. After entry of the amendments, claims 1 and 2 will be pending in this application.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,234,601 to Hayashi *et al* ("*Hayashi*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,439,708 to Kato *et al*. ("*Kato*"). According to the Examiner, with respect to Applicants' claim 1, *Hayashi* discloses a liquid for use in ink printers comprising a colorant, water and fine particles of a photo-curable resin. With respect to Applicants' claim 2, the Examiner states that *Hayashi* discloses a method of recording images on a recording medium by discharging the droplets of the recording liquid from a recording head.

The Examiner then acknowledges that *Hayashi* does not teach Applicants' 20 to 80% by weight of the total solids content of the resin particles, but states that *Ueda* does teach a total solids content of resin particles of from 1 to 25% by weight, citing column 6, lines 21-25. Thus, according to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to prepare Applicant's claimed recording liquid based on the teachings of *Hayashi* in view of *Kato*.

Applicants first note that the Examiner likely mistakenly cited *Ueda* (U.S. Patent 5,968,244) for teaching a total solids content of from 1-25% when the Examiner intended to cite *Kato* for teaching the same. This error is evident in light of the Examiner's citation of column 6, lines 21-25 which corresponds to a description of unrelated subject matter in *Ueda*. In addition, the Examiner acknowledges in the "Response to Arguments" section of the office action that Applicants' arguments distinguishing *Ueda* were persuasive, but found to be moot in view of *Kato*. Applicants' discussion below will therefore focus solely on *Kato* as the secondary reference.

As amended, Applicants' claim 1 requires the presence of:

- at least one photo-curable resin and
- at least two non-photo-curable resins, wherein
- at least one of the non-photo-curable resins is a self-cross-linking resin.

Hayashi does not teach or suggest the presence of at least three resins in any of its ink compositions. *Hayashi* does not teach that at least one of these resins must be a photo-curable resin while at least the other two resins must be non-photo-curable resins. Further, *Hayashi* does not teach or suggest that at least one of the non-photo-curable resins must be a self-cross-linking resin. At best, *Hayashi* teaches that the described ink composition contains a water-soluble emulsion resin, preferably in a core-shell structure, and preferably cross-linked, containing an epoxy resin or a urethane resin. Clearly, a person of skill in the art would not have been motivated after a reading of *Hayashi* to prepare Applicants' claimed recording liquid containing a minimum of three resins with the further recited restrictions discussed above. *Kato* as a secondary reference cannot remedy the deficiencies present in *Hayashi*. Because claim 2 depends from and incorporates all the features of claim 1, claim 2 is also not obvious over *Hayashi* in view of *Kato* for at least the above-discussed reasons. Applicants therefore request this rejection be withdrawn and that pending claims 1 and 2 be found in a condition for allowance.

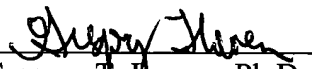
II. Conclusion

Upon consideration of the foregoing, it will be recognized that Applicants have fully and appropriately responded to all of the Examiner's rejections and objections. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification and do not add new matter. Accordingly, the claims are believed to be in proper form in all respects and a favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application, including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: September 20, 2004


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